

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01     ASMARA 01040 141916Z  
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05  
EUR-12 /071 W

----- 127032 /74-60

R 141315Z DEC 76  
FM AMCONSUL ASMARA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4271  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 1040

EO: 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR ET FR  
SUBJ: CLOSURE OF FRENCH CONSULATE

1. FRENCH CONSUL MARCEL FLEURY RECENTLY RETURNED FROM VISITS TO PARIS, DJIBOUTI, ADEN, AND ADDIS AND IS IN PROCESS OF CLOSING HIS CONSULATE.

2. FLEURY CONFIRMED EARLIER INDICATIONS THAT FRENCH CONSULATE IN ASMARA NO LONGER SERVED USEFUL PURPOSE. IN AUSTERITY MOVE GOF IS CLOSING ABOUT 30 CONSULATES, AMONG WHICH IS ASMARA. THERE IS NO LONGER A FRENCH PRESENCE IN ERITREA AND FOR PAST YEAR CONSUL AND VICE CONSUL RENE QUILLEUX HAVE HAD FEW DUTIES TO PERFORM.

3. QUILLEUX IS TRANSFERRING TO ROME WITHIN A MONTH. FLEURY IS TRANSFERRING TO ADEN IN EARLY 1977 AS NUMBER TWO AND WHEN AMBASSADOR LEAVES, PERHAPS IN FEBRUARY 1977, FLEURY WILL BE CHARGE, APPARENTLY FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD. FLEURY, AN ARABIC SPEAKER BORN IN MOROCCO, IS A BRIGHT, ENERGETIC CAREER OFFICER, EXTREMELY VOLUBLE AND FRANK WITH AMERICANS. HE SERVED ABOUT 7 YEARS IN NEW YORK JUST BEFORE ASMARA ASSIGNMENT AND IS QUITE FOND OF THINGS AMERICAN.

4. FLEURY, WHO VISITED THE HICOM IN DJIBOUTI IN EARLY DECEMBER, SAID PRESENT FRENCH PLANS FOR TIAS CALL FOR A REFERENDUM IN FEBRUARY 1977 AND INDEPENDENCE BY JUNE 1977. HE IS TOTALLY UNIMPRESSED BY NATURE OF FRENCH COLONIAL IMPACT IN DJIBOUTI. HE SAID VERY  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02     ASMARA 01040 141916Z

LITTLE EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO PREPARE TERRITORY FOR INDEPENDENCE

AND AFTER FRENCH DEPARTURE LITTLE RESIDUE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO MAKE  
NEW REGIME VIABLE.

5. COMMENT: FLEURY AND QUILLEUX AND THEIR WIVES SEEM TO HAVE EXPERIENCED PARTICULARLY UNPLEASANT TREATMENT ARRIVING AND DEPARTING FROM ASMARA AIRPORT DURING PAST SIX MONTHS. GOE AUTHORITIES MAY HAVE BEEN ENGAGING IN DELIBERATE HARASSMENT TO DEMONSTRATE FRENCH PRESENCE NO LONGER WELCOME HERE. IN ANY CASE, GOF NOW SEES NO FURTHER VALUE IN MAINTAINING CONSULATE IN SUCH RESTRICTED CIRCUMSTANCES WITH NO FRENCH CITIZENS IN TERRITORY.  
SLUTZ

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CLOSURE OF OFFICES, CONSULATES, DEPENDENCY POLICIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ASMARA01040  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760460-1136  
**From:** ASMARA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761243/aaaabklm.tel  
**Line Count:** 72  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CLOSURE OF FRENCH CONSULATE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PDIP, ET, FR, FT, (FLEURY, MARCEL), (QUILLEUX, RENE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006